

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: ELAB, EEC
SUBJ: OCTOBER 28 SOCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL: RESULTS

REF: BRUSSELS 14050

1. THE EC SOCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL, MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG
OCTOBER 28, GAVE A GREEN LIGHT TO THE EC COMMISSION'S
BECOMING MORE ACTIVE IN PROMOTING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT, AND
ASKED THE COMMISSION TO RECOMMEND DETAILED PROPOSALS FOR
COMMUNITY AID TO SUCH PROGRAMS.

2. ACCORDING TO COUNCIL'S PUBLISHED SUMMARY OF THE
MEETING, THE COUNCIL DECIDED THAT THE COMMISSION'S PRO-
POSALS "SHOULD BE SELECTIVE AND SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE AID
IS GRANTED TO AREAS OF GREATEST NEED." THE SUMMARY,
AS FORMULATED BY BELGIAN LABOR MINISTER GUY SPITAEELS,
COUNCIL PRESIDENT, DID NOT COMMENT ON ANY OF THE
SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED IN A RECENT COMMISSION
COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL ON THE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT
PROBLEM (SEE REFTEL).

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3. ALTHOUGH THE COMPLETE PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS FROM THE
COMMISSION IS NOT EXPECTED UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR, VICE
PRESIDENT HENK VREDELING, COMMISSIONER RESPONSIBLE FOR
EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, HAS PROMISED TO HAVE A
GENERAL OUTLINE READY FOR THE NEXT SOCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
MEETING, WHICH WILL BE HELD IN EARLY DECEMBER. THE

SUBJECT WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED NOVEMBER 24 WHEN THE COUNCIL'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT MEETS.

4. UNDER AN AGENDA ITEM ON THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND, THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED HOW THE FUND MIGHT BE ADAPTED TO THE "PRESENT LABOR MARKET SITUATION," IN WHICH AT LEAST ONE THIRD OF THE COMMUNITY'S SIX MILLION UNEMPLOYED MEN AND WOMEN ARE UNDER 25 YEARS OF AGE, AND APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE A NEW "CATEGORY OF AID CENTERING ON EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUNG WORKERS." AGAIN, COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL FOR APPROVAL.

5. THE COUNCIL ALSO CONTINUED AN OVERALL REVIEW OF THE WORKINGS OF THE SOCIAL FUND, AND BEFORE COMING TO A FINAL DECISION ON ITS FUTURE EMPHASIS, SENT A SET OF PROPOSED NEW REGULATIONS AND OTHER POLICY DOCUMENTS TO THE PARLIAMENT FOR ITS COMMENTS.

6. ON ANOTHER AGENDA ITEM, THE COUNCIL, TAKING NOTE OF THE COMMISSION'S 21 PRESENT PILOT PROJECTS TO COMBAT POVERTY, AGREED TO EXTEND THEIR FINANCING UNTIL 1980, RATHER THAN LET THEM EXPIRE THIS YEAR AS ORIGINALLY INTENDED. HINTON

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